

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 PMN-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /121 W
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R 221945Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5060

INFO DIA DOD WASHDC

USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, AR

SUBJECT: POLITICAL FALL-OUT FROM AZUL TERRORIST ATTACK

REF: BA 501, AND BA 537

1. SUMMARY. BA GOV BIDEgain HAS NOT RESIGNED, AS EARLIER REPORTED, BUT APPEARS TO BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE. SPECULATION IS THAT 1) HE WILL BE FORCED TO PUBLICLY RECANT AND TOE ORTHODOX LINE COMPLETELY, OR 2) THAT PROVINCE WILL BE INTERVENED NO MATTER WHAT HE DOES. PERONIST YOUTH DEPUTIES WHO CONTINUE TO OPPOSE GOVTS AMENDMENTS TO PENAL CODE MAY ALSO BE IN FOR A BAD TIME. IN SHORT, PRESSURE ON HOLDOUTS IS INCREASING AS MORE AND MORE POLITICAL SECTORS LINE UP SOLIDLY BEHIND PERON IN ALL-OUT STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISTS. END SUMMARY

2. NAVAL REPORT YESTERDAY (BA-501) THAT GOV BIDEgain HAD RESIGNED WAS PREMATURE. BIDEgain MET YESTERDAY AFTERNOON WITH MININT LLAMBI AND SEC GEN PRESIDENCY SOLANO LIMA. HE SUBSEQUENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT H HAD NOT RPT NOT RE*IGNED AND WOULD MEET WITH PERON, POSSIBLY TODAY (JAN 22). PERONIST SOURCES
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NONETHELESS ARE QUOTED BY PRESS AS SAYING BIDEgain FINISHED

POLITICALLY. ONE EMBASSY SOURCE, HOWEVER, SPECULATED THAT PERON WOULD NOT NECESSARILY OUST BIDEAIN BUT THAT LATTER WILL CERTAINLY FEEL HEAT AND WILL BE FORCED TO CONFORM TOTALLY TO PERON'S WISHES OR FACE DISGRACE AND OUSTER. BA PROVINCIAL CABINET MET YESTERDAY AND GAVE GOVERNOR VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. THIS NOT LIKELY TO HELP HIM, HOWEVER, SINCE CABINET IS UNDER AS MUCH FIRE AS GOV HIMSELF. BIDEAIN HAS LONG BEEN TARGET OF LABOR SECTOR. INDEED, VICE GOVERNOR CALABRO, WHO REPRESENTS LABOR WING (METAL WORKERS), IS HIS ARCH RIVAL AND BITTEREST CRITIC. CGT IS STEPPING UP ITS ATTACKS ON BIDEAIN AND DEMANDING HIS RESIGNATION. PRESS REPORTS SOURCES CLOSE TO EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY AS INDICATING CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ON VERGE OF INTERVENING BA PROVINCE. THIS IS DEFINITE POSSIBILITY, BUT AS YET WE UNABLE TO CONFIRM THROUGH OTHER SOURCES.

3. REPS OF VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS CONTINUE TO ISSUE STATEMENTS CONDEMNING VIOLENCE IN GENERAL AND AZUL ATTACK IN PARTICULAR. EVEN CORDOBA GOVERNOR OBREGON CANO HAS CHIMED IN. GROUP OF PERONIST YOUTH DEPUTIES IN FEDERAL CHAMBER, HOWEVER, YESTERDAY ISSUED PUZZLING STATEMENT INDICATING AZUL ATTACK SIMPLY CONFIRMED THEIR REASONS FOR OPPOSING AMENDMENTS TO PENAL CODE (WHICH TO BE DEBATED THIS WEEK). ATTACK, THEY IMPLIED, WAS COMBINED EFFORT OF ULTRA LEFT AND RIGHT TO PROVOKE GOVT TO ACTS WHICH WOULD ALIENATE POPULAR MASSES. WAY TO COMBAT THIS PROVOCATION WAS TO STAND FIRMLY AGAINST IMPERIALISM, DEPUTIES CONCLUDED. SAME DEPUTIES SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH PERON THIS MORNING. ONE CAN ONLY WONDER WHETHER THEIR TORTUOUS LOGIC AND POSITION WILL STAND UP TO HIS PERSONAL DEMAND THAT EVERYONE LINE UP SQUARELY AGAINST TERRORISTS OR ELSE.

4. LA OPINION THIS MORNING REPORTS THAT SECGEN PRESIDENCY SOLANO LIMA MAY ALSO BE IN TROUBLE AS RESULT OF "HAVING BEEN TOO SOFT ON LEFTIST GOVERNORS." THIS STRIKES US AS UNFOUNDED SPECULATION AND SOURCES CLOSE TO SOLANO LIMA DENY THERE IS ANY TRUTH IN IT.

5. PERON ATTENDED FUNERAL FOR COL GAY YESTERDAY AGAIN CLAD IN UNIFORM OF LT GENERAL.

6. CGT HAS CALLED FOR "FULL ALERT" AND IS URGING ALL MEMBERS TO "DEFEND PERON TO THE DEATH" AGAINST TERRORIST THREAT.
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7. COMMENT. SIGNIFICANCE OF ALL THIS SEEMS TO BE THAT LINES ARE NOW BEING CLEARLY DRAWN. MASSIVE PUBLIC REPUDIATION OF AZUL ATTACK AND PERON'S UNEQUIVOCAL CALL FOR ALL O*T STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISTS ARE FORCING OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF SECTORS TO LINE UP SOLIDLY BEHIND PERON. THOSE WHO DO NOT WILL FACE ISOLATION. REACTION OF PERONIST LEFT WING NOT ET CLEAR, BUT EVEN IF THEY DO NOT HEED PERON' DEMANDS, REACTION TO AZUL ATTA*K IS SUCH

THAT HEY WILL FIND THEMSELVES IN A WEAK POSITION.
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Message Attributes

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